

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A masterbatch composition comprising (percent by weight):
 - A) 50%-90% of a crystalline polypropylene component comprising:
 - A^I) from 25% to 75% of a fraction having a melt flow rate MFR^I of from 0.1 to 10 g/10 min.; and
 - A^{II}) from 25% to 75% of a fraction having a melt flow rate value MFR^{II} no greater than ~~than~~ 100 g/10 min.;wherein a ratio $\frac{\text{MFR}^I}{\text{MFR}^{II}} \frac{\text{MFR}^{II}}{\text{MFR}^I}$ is from 5 to 60, and the fractions A^I) and A^{II}) are independently selected from the group consisting of a propylene homopolymer, a random copolymer of propylene containing up to 3% of ethylene, and a random copolymer of propylene containing up to 6% of at least one C₄-C₁₀ α -olefin; and
 - B) 10%-50% of a copolymer component comprising ethylene and at least one C₃-C₁₀ α -olefin, the copolymer containing from 15% to 50% of ethylene, and optionally minor amounts of a diene;said masterbatch composition having an MFR and a value of the intrinsic viscosity $[\eta]$ of a fraction soluble in xylene at room temperature (about 25 °C) of at least 3.5 dl/g.
2. (previously presented) The masterbatch composition of claim 1 wherein the MFR is 0.1 to 10 g/10 min.
3. (currently amended) A thermoplastic polyolefin composition comprising a masterbatch composition and at least one olefin polymer different from the masterbatch composition, the masterbatch composition comprising (percent by weight):
 - A) 50%-90% of a crystalline polypropylene component comprising:
 - A^I) from 25% to 75% of a fraction having a melt flow rate MFR^I of from 0.1 to 10 g/10 min.; and
 - A^{II}) from 25% to 75% of a fraction having a melt flow rate value MFR^{II} no greater than ~~than~~ 100 g/10 min.;wherein a ratio $\frac{\text{MFR}^I}{\text{MFR}^{II}} \frac{\text{MFR}^{II}}{\text{MFR}^I}$ is from 5 to 60, and the fractions A^I) and A^{II}) are independently selected from the group consisting of a propylene homopolymer, a

random copolymer of propylene containing up to 3% of ethylene, and a random copolymer of propylene containing up to 6% of at least one C₄-C₁₀ α -olefin; and

- B) 10%-50% of a copolymer component comprising ethylene and at least one C₃-C₁₀ α -olefin, the copolymer containing from 15% to 50% of ethylene, and optionally minor amounts of a diene;

said masterbatch composition having an MFR and a value of the intrinsic viscosity $[\eta]$ of a fraction soluble in xylene at room temperature (about 25 °C) at least 3.5 dl/g.

4. (previously presented) The thermoplastic polyolefin composition of claim 3, wherein the masterbatch composition is present in an amount from 5% to 20% by weight with respect to the total weight of the thermoplastic composition.
5. (previously presented) The thermoplastic polyolefin composition of claim 3, wherein the olefin polymers other than those contained in the masterbatch composition are selected from the group consisting of:
 - 1) crystalline propylene homopolymers;
 - 2) crystalline copolymers of propylene with at least one of ethylene and a C₄-C₁₀ α -olefin, wherein the total comonomer content ranges from 0.05 to 20% by weight with respect to the weight of the copolymer;
 - 3) crystalline ethylene homopolymers and copolymers with at least one of propylene and C₄-C₁₀ α -olefins;
 - 4) elastomeric copolymers of ethylene with at least one of propylene and a C₄-C₁₀ α -olefin, optionally containing minor quantities of a diene;
 - 5) a thermoplastic elastomeric composition comprising at least one of propylene homopolymers and the copolymers of item 2) and an elastomeric moiety comprising at least one of the copolymers of item 4), containing the elastomeric moiety in quantities from 5 to 80% by weight; and
 - 6) blends of at least two of the polymers or compositions of items 1) to 5).
6. (currently amended) A process for preparing a masterbatch composition comprising (percent by weight):
 - A) 50%-90% of a crystalline polypropylene component comprising:
 - A¹) from 25% to 75% of a fraction having a melt flow rate MFR¹ of from 0.1 to 10 g/10 min.; and

A^{II}) from 25% to 75% of a fraction having a melt flow rate value MFR^{II} no greater than 100 g/10 min.;

wherein a ratio $\frac{MFR^I}{MFR^{II}} \frac{MFR^{II}}{MFR^I}$ is from 5 to 60, and the fractions A^I) and A^{II}) are independently selected from the group consisting of a propylene homopolymer, a random copolymer of propylene containing up to 3% of ethylene, and a random copolymer of propylene containing up to 6% of at least one C₄-C₁₀ α -olefin; and

B) 10%-50% of a copolymer component comprising ethylene and at least one C₃-C₁₀ α -olefin, the copolymer containing from 15% to 50% of ethylene, and optionally minor amounts of a diene;

said masterbatch composition having an MFR and a value of the intrinsic viscosity $[\eta]$ of a fraction soluble in xylene at room temperature (about 25 °C) of at least 3.5 dl/g;

the process comprising polymerizing at least one monomer in a sequential polymerization, comprising at least three sequential steps, wherein components (A) and (B) are prepared in separate subsequent steps, operating in each step, except the first step, in the presence of the polymer formed and the catalyst used in the preceding step.

7. (currently amended) Bumpers and fascia comprising a masterbatch composition comprising (percent by weight):

A) 50%-90% of a crystalline polypropylene component comprising:

A^I) from 25% to 75% of a fraction having a melt flow rate MFR^I of from 0.1 to 10 g/10 min.; and

A^{II}) from 25% to 75% of a fraction having a melt flow rate value MFR^{II} no greater than 100 g/10 min.;

wherein a ratio $\frac{MFR^I}{MFR^{II}} \frac{MFR^{II}}{MFR^I}$ is from 5 to 60, and the fractions A^I) and A^{II}) are independently selected from the group consisting of a propylene homopolymer, a random copolymer of propylene containing up to 3% of ethylene, and a random copolymer of propylene containing up to 6% of at least one C₄-C₁₀ α -olefin; and

B) 10%-50% of a copolymer component comprising ethylene and at least one C₃-C₁₀ α -olefin, the copolymer containing from 15% to 50% of ethylene, and optionally minor amounts of a diene;

said masterbatch composition having an MFR and a value of the intrinsic viscosity $[\eta]$ of a fraction soluble in xylene at room temperature (about 25 °C) of at least 3.5 dl/g.